



November 2010

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Overlooking Home Bay, Motutapu – Rosie, Phillip, Mike, Sue, Rona, Kjeld and Matt.

PHOTO COLIN QUILTER

Auckland Canoe Club Information

Postal Address

P.O. Box 9271, Newmarket, Auckland

Clubrooms

Marine Rescue Centre, Mechanics Bay

Website

<http://www.aucklandcanoeclub.org.nz>

Email event reminders

send blank email to

subscribe@aucklandcanoeclub.org.nz

Officers

<i>Patron</i>	Jim Mason	
<i>President</i>	Ian Calhaem	579 0512
<i>Secretary</i>	Matt Crozier	817 1984
<i>Treasurer</i>	Gerard Fagan	832 9720
<i>Trips</i>	Eddie de Vries	480 5623
<i>Publicity</i>	Roger Lomas	846 6799
<i>Training</i>	John Maynard	626 4096
<i>Storage/kayaks</i>	Gavin Baker	528 5188
<i>Assistant</i>	Roger Lomas	846 6799
<i>Vine House</i>	Trevor Arthur	817 7357
<i>Newsletter</i>	Claire O'Connor	521 1769
<i>Webmaster</i>	Matt Crozier	817 1984

Email addresses

patron@aucklandcanoeclub.org.nz
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newsletter@aucklandcanoeclub.org.nz
webmaster@aucklandcanoeclub.org.nz

Club Trip/Event Policies

Visit the Club website for details of safety and other important policies.

Contacting trip/event organiser

You must notify the trip organiser in advance of your intention to go on a trip. Organisers need to know numbers and to be able to contact you if the plan changes.

You must also discuss with the organiser in advance any medical or other conditions (such as your experience and ability) that might affect the progress of the group.

Cancellation

If the weather looks uncertain call the trip co-ordinator.

Club Banking Details

Bank BNZ
Branch Newmarket
Account 02-0100-0023453-000
Name Auckland Canoe Club

IMPORTANT

If you are depositing money to the Club Account please ensure that you include YOUR name so that the Treasurer knows who deposited the money.

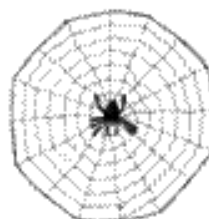
Internet Banking

All major banks have set up Auckland Canoe Club as a registered payee for internet banking.

This means that you can pay to

Auckland Canoe Club

without having to enter the account number.
Check with your bank.



Club Website Access for October

Password Waitakaruru



Deadline for December Newsletter

16 November 2010

Kayak Hire

To book a kayak, enter details in the diary.
Check diary before taking a kayak.

Kayak Hire Rates

Single kayaks

Daily hire – out am, back pm \$20.00

Half day – out am, back am
out pm, back pm \$10.00

Double kayaks

Daily hire – out am, back pm \$30.00

Half day – out am back am
out pm back pm \$15.00

- Please enter details of hire in register and on an envelope.
- Put money in envelope and place envelope in honesty box.
- **No I.O.U.s!**
- Carry or wheel kayaks to water.
- No seal launching.
- Please wash kayaks before returning to rack.
- Report faults or problems on the faults/problems sheet.

Skills Practice

Skills / Rolling Practice – Okahu Bay

Come along to Okahu Bay on Sundays at 10am to brush up on your skills!!

For more information please phone
John Williams on 021 131 0516

Split Paddle Found

St Heliers Beach, Tuesday 2 November

Phone Claire on 521 1769 or 027 238 1250
or email claire.o@clear.net.nz

Describe the paddle to her and she will get it back to you.

Regular Events

Vine House – Last Weekend of Every Month

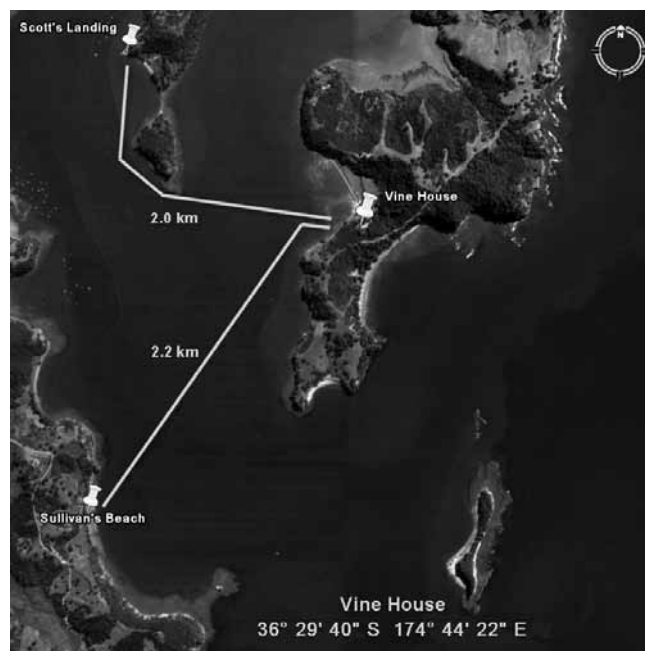
On the last weekend of each month we have the use of Vine House.

This gem in Mahurangi Harbour is a 2 km paddle from Sullivans Bay, which is the ARC park at the end of the Mahurangi West Road, first on the right past Puhoi.

The house sleeps 10 and has all creature comforts. Bring sleeping bag, pillow case and food. A shared meal and nibbles is the norm for Saturday night, so bring your goodies.

Lagoon Bay is very tidal, so bringing a kayak trolley is a good idea. The range of paddling is endless, eg Waiwera, Warkworth, Kawau Island, Motuora Island – your choice. Or just rest and read and enjoy this tranquil and special place. We recommend you take a carry bag to get all your gear up the track to the house. Secure parking is at Sullivans Bay. Leave a note on your dashboard reading “Vine House Volunteer” when you park in front of the ranger’s house.

Please ring to book a bed, and for detailed directions.
Trevor 817-7357, Matt 817-1984.



Saturday Morning Paddles

If you are into good coffee, good company and usually a leisurely paddle then these are the trips for you.

A small but growing group meet about 9:00am on Saturday mornings to paddle to one of the beaches – St Heliers, Kohimarama or Mission Bay for coffee.

Note: Paddlers under 18 to be accompanied by a guardian!

At Home with geriatrics

Colin Quilter

One of the great things about being an old retired guy is that kayaking can be done anytime, not just in the weekends. So after a long wet winter, when the first of the summer anticyclones drifted in from the Tasman on a Monday morning, a bunch of grey-headed paddlers headed for Home Bay on Motutapu Island. (Actually only three of our number are grey-headed, but I suspect that some of the others are avoiding it by chemical means.)

Why Home Bay? The campsite is a big meadow right behind the beach, sheltered from cold southwesterly winds, and gets the morning sun. Among all the Hauraki Gulf campsites it is one of the best; and although we've been there many times before, as the Texans say, "When you strike oil, stop drilling."

Our party comprised Mike, Phillip, Sue, Rosie, Matt, Kjeld and me. We met at Kohimarama Beach; actually, we didn't. Kjeld paddled from Narrow Neck and we met him on the Rangitoto coast. Nor did we meet Rosie at Kohi, because Rosie always arrives late so it's hard to meet her anywhere. This time she arrived at Kohi five hours late, and caught up to us at Home Bay. Never mind, it's a pleasure having her company, and she is proof that Edward Verrall Lucas was correct when he said, "I've noticed that people who are late are often so much jollier than the people who have to wait for them."

Home Bay was verdant in the afternoon sun. All were happy except for Rona who wished the beach was sand rather than shingle; and who observed that the grass on our campsite needed mowing. However we reminded Rona that grass too long for walking on is very soft for sleeping on, a point which she conceded.



The Home Bay campsite, looking north

After coffee and sandwiches there was discussion about how to fill the afternoon. Phillip suggested that we paddle across to Oneroa Beach on Waiheke Island to purchase a bottle of wine for dinner.

Foolishly we agreed, (except for Sue and Rona who had more sense). The rest of us set off and found in due course that owing to continental drift Oneroa is a now great deal further away from Home Bay than it used to be. We realised that the trip might therefore be too long to complete in daylight. We might have reached this conclusion halfway to Oneroa and turned back; or even three-quarters of the way and turned back, but we did not. We paddled until we were within sight and smell of Oneroa, could nearly touch it, before deciding to turn back, and returning empty-handed.

This was a sad blow to those of us who recalled the words of Omar Khayyam: "Here with a loaf of bread beneath the bough, a flask of wine, a book of verse and thou beside me, singing in the wilderness; and wilderness is Paradise now!" We resigned ourselves to Paradise Lost, at least for tonight; but then we were saved by Rona who produced a bottle. No wonder she had shown little enthusiasm for Oneroa!

A heavy dew fell during the night. Breakfast next morning would have been tiresome amid the long wet grass, but fortunately DOC has provided a wooden breakfast table at the northern end of the amenities building. Unfortunately the breakfast table has been designed for midgets, so campers of normal height have to sit on the table and eat on their knees, or stand by the table and bow down to reach it. We racked our brains to discern what might have been DOC's plan in providing such a useless piece of furniture, perhaps they just ran out of timber when it came to building the legs.



Breakfast at the table built for little folk

After breakfast, before Phillip could suggest another trip to Oneroa, we opted for a walk. A gentle stroll would have suited most of us, but Rona requested a cross-country expedition north of Home Bay.

Continued on page 6 ➤

Letter to Club Members

Dear fellow members,

Reading Mike Randall's "*Letter to the Editor*" in the October edition which read more like a poem than a letter (I always appreciate that very much, thanks Mike), he makes a passionate plea for more items from our members to be forwarded for our monthly newsletter.

What a nightmare it must be for our very diligent editor, Claire to try to put together an interesting newsletter month after month. Other than a trip report or news items from Roger and Ian, and the poems from Mike, having only the same information as she had available for the past number of months.

If it were not for two entries from Roger Lomas and two entries from our regular poet, there would have been very little to get excited about in the October edition of the newsletter. I appreciate her tenacity to keep going as editor. But let's help her.

Were there no early spring trips by others? Has nobody other than Roger and the Barracuda Boys been on the water or had some experiences we would love to hear about? Is there nothing to get excited about in the coming months? No exciting trips? No encounters with dolphins or orca?

Come on guys – and gals; get some passion. Let's become more involved and communicate by sending some items to the editor for placement in the newsletter. Share your experiences with other club members. Others will become more excited about paddling and share their experiences as we share our experiences.

Let's also get some robust discussion going on issues that are of interest us. I have become aware of how little we know of what we as members want from our club. There is a blog and a forum site on the web site, but other than a test entry or two and one blog, there has been no communication here at all. Is this due to lack of know-how of how to make an entry, or is there just no interest? If this is as a result of lack of skills of using these sites (like me some more paddlers may be more at ease in a kayak than at the computer), maybe we need a step-by-step information sheet of how to use these sites. We could use the blog to discuss trips, equipment, likes and dislikes of boats we have trialled, what has

been learned about different areas, safety hints, etc, etc. If you want to raise things that bother you, but want to do this without others knowing who you are, this is an ideal place to raise them under a pseudo name. As long as we do not attack people in person, all discussion is welcome as long if it leads to improvements in the club.

I have heard through the grapevine that the Auckland Provincial Canoe Committee arranges kayak races amongst clubs in the Auckland Region on a regular basis. I do not know how competitive these "races" are, but what a great way to meet other kayakers and for the more competitive kayakers to get some idea of how good – or slow – you actually are. But ignoring the racing part, what a brilliant idea to meet other kayakers and their environments and also to do something slightly different than an easy morning paddle. I know that recently a race was held down the Waikato from Cambridge to Hamilton. It was extremely well supported with races in different classes such as K1, plastic sea kayaks, fibre sea kayaks etc. But from our club I was not even aware that this race was on. Why not? Maybe our trip leader was not aware.

Why are other clubs excited about these events where kayakers from Taupo, Tauranga and Auckland drive to Cambridge for an event which is both a race and also a social event, but at ACC we are not even aware of it? I believe that ACC used to take part in these "races", but that through lack of interest we are no longer represented.

ACC even used to arrange some of the events. This has obviously fallen by the wayside. Or have we become a such dull group where an hour or two on the water close to home is all we want. Or were some paddlers aware of the race and maybe even took part in it, but because there is no interaction amongst us, there was little known about it. Is there interest from our members to become involved again?

What about some response on the blog site? I will, in the meantime make contact with APCC and hear when and where these events are and get the information out there.

Name withheld

Jumping barracuda attacks kayaker!

www.stuff.co.nz 19 October 2010

A barracuda jumped out of the water and bit a 45-year-old woman kayaker in the chest in the Florida Keys, causing injuries which required her evacuation by boat and helicopter to a Miami hospital, the US Coast Guard said on Monday.

It said the incident, in which the woman suffered a suspected punctured lung and broken ribs, took place on Sunday evening near Big Pine Key where the victim and a companion were kayaking in shallow water.

The two told rescuers the fish was about 1.2 metres long and was previously seen skipping across the water. It knocked the woman out of the two-person kayak when it hit her in the chest, the *Sun-Sentinel* newspaper reported.

She climbed back into the kayak and her companion, unable to row her to safety, called for help on his mobile phone.

"She had a pretty bad chest wound," the paper quoted one of the rescuers, Captain Kevin Freestone, owner of TowBoatUS in Big Pine Key and Cudjoe Key and a member of the Volunteer Fire Department in Big Pine Key. "She was conscious, and she was scared about what had happened to her."

The US Coast Guard station in Marathon launched a vessel, but because of the shallowness of the water it was a small boat deployed by TowBoatUS, which assists vessels in distress, which was able to transport a paramedic to the injured woman and bring her to shore.

A helicopter took her to Jackson Memorial Hospital in Miami where she was listed as stable, the Coast Guard said.

Barracudas are sleek, swift predators with razor sharp teeth. Other cases of the fish leaping out of the water and biting fishermen and boaters have been reported in Florida.

At Home with geriatrics

Continued from page 4



The second hilltop; or was it the third?

From the first hilltop the distant waters of the Hauraki Gulf shimmered in the morning sun; and so they did from the second and third hilltops. I was beginning to think that a trip to Oneroa might have been less effort when Home Bay eventually came into sight again. We lunched in the shade of a pohutukawa there, and then paddled back to the city in time to drive home before the rush hour. Another happy trip which, in time, will fuse in my memory with all the earlier ones, equally enjoyable. Thanks to my companions, who I hope will come again in spite of the risk that great lies will be told about them in the newsletter afterwards; (a risk that, on this occasion, they escaped).

Poet's Corner

*Two Saddlebacks made my day
A one night stand of the camping kind
Peter Rona Colin Me
Lucky enough to have two days free
On that lovely island Motuihe
A simple activity camping with friends
Those small adventures as someone opined
That over time merge into one
Hazy memory of sparkling seas
Twilight talk and morning sun
Cups of tea on golden beaches
Congenial company second to none
Names are forgotten
Locations vague
But a feeling of joy seeps into the mind
As I sit and remember those times.*

Mike Randall

Club Trips – November/December 2010

Please phone Eddie on phone 480 5623, mobile 027 271 4679 or email Eddiev@blacktop.co.nz Wednesday or Thursday to express interest in any of the trips listed below.

Saturday 13 November

From Whangaparaoa Peninsula (Arkles Bay or Little Manly) to Weiti River

Stop at Dacre Cottage for lunch. Then on to Okura Estuary and return.

Top of the tide is approx 1.30pm. Back mid afternoon.

Phone Erica 360 2872 or 021 0438118 on the Thursday or Friday beforehand for details.

Sunday 21 November

Army Bay to Tiritiri Matangi Island

Meet at Army Bay (Whangaparaoa Peninsula, approx 1 hr 10 min drive from CBD) at 10.00, on the water by 10.30. Lunch on Tiritiri Matangi Island. Explore rock gardens, caves, or climb up to the lighthouse, bird sanctuary. Back at Army Bay approx 5.30 pm.

Call Peter Sommerhalder on (09) 631 5344, or email: psommerhalder@slingshot.co.nz

Saturday 27 and Sunday 28 November

Vine House Weekend

A chance for a laid back couple of days with good company and good food.

Call Trevor 817-7357 to book a bed and for detailed information.

Sunday 28 November

First Swim Escort – Herne Bay Beach to Masefield Beach (Pt Erin)

Meet at Masefield Beach at 11.00am for a 11.30am paddle to Herne Bay Beach start point for briefing.

Race starts from Herne Bay at 12.15 am and finishes back at Masefield Beach (Pt Erin), where Roger will be waiting with a much-appreciated barbecue and cold drinks!!

Saturday 11 December

Herald Island to Riverhead Jetty

Meet at Christmas Beach at 9.30, on the water by 10.00. Bring lunch. As the Riverhead Pub is in the process of being refurbished, it may not be possible to have lunch there.

Explore tidal stream at Riverhead before returning to Herald Island by approx 4.00. Suitable for beginners (1 1/2 hrs each way), but can be exposed to strong winds.

Call Peter Sommerhalder on (09) 631 5344, or email: psommerhalder@slingshot.co.nz

2010/2011 Harbour Swim Dates

Auckland Central Masters Swimming Inc advise that they are planning to hold their annual open water swims on the following dates:

Swim	Date	Start	Duration (approx)	Tide
Herne Bay Beach to Masefield Beach (Pt Erin)	28 Nov 2010	12:15pm	50 mins	1:15pm
Masefield Beach (Pt Erin) to Chelsea Sugar	12 Dec 2010	11:30am	75 mins	12:50pm
St Heliers to Tamaki Yacht Club	6 Mar 2011	8:00am	90 mins	9:28am
Rangi Wharf to St Heliers	10 Apr 2011	9:50am	120 mins	11:51am

Club's new double kayak arrives



As part of an ongoing policy, the clubs hire fleet is maintained to a very high standard. Recently we took delivery of a brand new Barracuda Beachcomber Duo. This is the very latest of the new technology of ultra light weight plastic sea kayaks. It will compliment our two existing Beachcomber single kayaks.

Our club hire fleet serves several important roles. Firstly it assists new and potential members in that transitional period before they commit to purchasing their own craft. It also allows existing members to take family and friends out on the water when the opportunity arises. Lastly it serves in the long-standing traditional role of providing a fleet of training craft. The double kayaks are the ideal craft for introducing nervous novice paddlers to sea kayaking. Our white water kayaks are used for pool training sessions and rolling instruction.

Club kayaks are housed in the club locker at Okahu Bay. Contact a committee member for details of entry. Club hire kayaks are stored on the lower easy to access storage racks. They have Auckland Canoe Club branding and fleet numbers marked on their stern. We have very modest hireage rates and these

are advertised on the notice board above the booking desk inside the locker. Enter your booking details in the log book and pay before you depart. Ensure that you are back before 12 midday if you have chosen a half day hire. During the summer months demand is high and others may be waiting.

If an occasion arises where you would like to take a club kayak away from Okahu Bay for launching then permission must first be obtained. You must contact a committee member prior to transporting any craft away from the locker and outline your intentions. If permission is granted this must be logged in the hire book including the authorising committee member's name.

Over the summer months the club is involved in supporting a series of long-distance harbour swimming events. The club hire fleet is embargoed for these days and kayaks are available free to members assisting. These events are only run in favourable conditions and are enjoyable social occasions ending with a club BBQ. The first of this summers series in the Herne Bay to Pt Erin swim on the 28th November. See you there.

KASK FORUM, ANAKIWA – 1, 2 and 3 April 2011

Held at the Outward Bound facilities near Picton in Queen Charlotte Sound, this is a great opportunity for Sea Kayakers of all levels to participate with others at this great location, guest speakers, training and paddle opportunities.

See www.kask.org.nz and go to the events page for more information or contact **Evan** at sheepskinsnstuff@xtra.co.nz

Padding the Seabird Coast

Roger Lomas

Lingering long on my list of must do paddles for some years now has been the Seabird Coast. This is the stretch of shoreline at the south western end of the Firth of Thames, taking in Kaiaua and Miranda. Numerous road trip observations along this way had forewarned me that getting the tides right was paramount. The waters in this region are very shallow and heavily silted. When the tide goes out vast acres of mudflats are exposed.

Early September presented a window of opportunity with a king tide arriving early on a Saturday morning. Unfortunately the weather did not oblige, but there was another series of king tides in October so the trip was rescheduled.

A favourable forecast coincided with the big October tides and a call went out to the regular Saturday morning stalwarts. The plan was to rendezvous at a launch site just south of Kaiaua. This was a roadside layby much favoured by camper vans.

In the feeble glimmer of dawn the next day it wasn't hard to find the launch site. There were over forty camper vans of all shapes and sizes squatting there. We pulled into the far end of the coastal queue and made ready to launch. There had been a north easterly wind blowing for the last few days and the remnants of some quite large wind waves were still rolling in. The forecast was for light nor-easterlies easing up and then going around to the south-west late morning.

Once off the beach, we enjoyed running with the wind waves as we made our way along the coast towards Waitakaruru. We had the use of the last one and a half hours of the big incoming tide to assist our exploration. It was only at the mouths of a few small streams that we encountered protruding sandbars and shallows. The long stretches of glistening white shell bank were broken by occasional clumps of mangroves. In the distance we could see a large flock of birds wheeling above the sanctuary area at Miranda.

As we neared Waitakaruru the shelly beach gave way dramatically to a vast mangrove forest. This huge green coastal fringe stretched way off into the distance. It extends all the way across the Hauraki Plains to Thames, some 25 kilometres away. It was time for a break so we turned back and nosed into the estuary of a small coastal creek for a cuppa.

As we sat on a shell bank in the sun, we spied a few Pied Oyster catchers and some Seagulls, but could not identify the big flock of wheeling birds above. It was only a few days later whilst watching Craig Potten's "Rivers" television documentary programme that I realised they were Wrybills. Some of these birds are resident in the headwaters of the South Islands Rangitata River. They migrate north to Miranda for winter.

During our half hour cuppa stop, the tide turned and we noticed that the tranquil waters of our little estuary were rushing out. It was time to head back. The north-easterly wind swells had gone and the South-westerly was just beginning to set in. We would be sheltered on the return trip running snug up against the coast.

When we arrived back at the launch site we were pleased to notice that almost half of the motor homes had departed. We washed our kayaks down and made ready for the drive home. There is always time for another cuppa and so we sat in the spring sunshine and enjoyed the coastal vista. Just along the beach we watched some children dragging a sit on top down to the receding waters edge. The shell bank beach had given way to mudflats and they were struggling through calf deep mud to launch their craft. The tide was receding quicker than their seaward progress and eventually they gave up. Just as well because when these king tides ebb, over four kilometres of mudflats stretch out from the shore. If you choose to paddle this area, pick your tides carefully.

Fellow paddlers and birdwatchers were Ryan Whittle, Tony Hannifin and Ian Smeeton.



Jodi's Rangitoto Trip



A great day on Rangitoto recently.

PHOTOS DAVID WILLIAMS



Erica's trip round Ponui Island

